

DECLARATION OF TEOFILO MARTINEZ

I, Teofilo Martinez, declare:

1. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth in this declaration. If called upon to testify as a witness, I could do so and would testify to these facts.

2. I am 57 years old and a citizen of Honduras. I came to the United States in 1997, when I was about 30 years old. I have had Temporary Protected Status (TPS) since the U.S. designated Honduras for TPS in 1999. Without TPS, I will lose my work authorization and protection from detention and deportation, my driver's license and professional licenses, and risk separation from my life partner.

3. I am a member and leader of the National TPS Alliance (NTPSA). I have been active in the NTPSA for more than six years. I joined voluntarily because I believe in the mission of the organization to defend the TPS program, and I wanted to help my community.

Background

4. I grew up in a poor family in Honduras. My father died when I was just five years old, and my mother died when I was a teenager, leaving me homeless. As a young, person on my own, life was difficult and dangerous. Honduras did not have resources for people in my situation. I was also vulnerable to gangs and organized crime syndicates that wanted to recruit me. I left Honduras in search of safety, security and stability.

5. I arrived in the United States in 1997 and have lived in Georgia ever since. In 1999, Honduras was designated for TPS. I applied as soon as I could. I was granted TPS and have extended my status each time the designation for Honduras was extended.

6. TPS made it possible for me to get an education, buy a home, and pursue a career. My entire life is here. Everything I have accomplished, I have accomplished here.

7. One of the first things I did after receiving TPS was go to school to learn English. I enrolled at a local college in Georgia. I also got my driver's license and opened my bank account.

1 license would put me at risk of criminal charges.

2 15. Without TPS, I would not be able to travel safely, which would make it
3 difficult for me to continue my volunteer work with the NTPSA.

4 16. Losing TPS also affects other financial decisions. I am currently pre-
5 approved to buy a home, but if I lose my TPS, I won't be able to get a mortgage because I
6 would lose my job.

7 17. The idea of returning to Honduras fills me with anxiety. After almost 30
8 years in the United States, I feel like a stranger there. The economic situation remains very
9 difficult, and criminality is high. The economy is so bad, that children are forced into
10 gangs to survive. But remaining in the United States would mean living with the constant
11 fear of detention and deportation.

12 18. If I returned to Honduras, not only would I lose everything I've built here,
13 but I would be separated from the love of my life, my partner of 25 years. My partner and I
14 come from different countries. She would not be able to come to Honduras with me, nor
15 would it be safe for her there. And I would not be able to go with her to her country of
16 origin. The fear of separation hangs over us.

17 19. On behalf of my fellow TPS holders, I ask the government to consider our
18 clean records and the cultural and economic contributions that we have made to this
19 country, which has become our country.

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21 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this
22 declaration was executed at Gwinnett County, Georgia, this 29 day of June, 2025.

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25 Teofilo Martinez
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